Amendments to the Abstract:

An improved strap tensioner that allows a user to manually shorten the strap by applying greater tension on the strap and easily lengthening the strap after being tightened. The tensioner includes a tension lever, an intermediate member, and a brake lever all pivotally mounted on a rigid base. The tension lever and brake member are longitudinally aligned on opposite sides of the rigid base. Formed on the tension lever is a transversely aligned clamping flange that extends under the strap when longitudinally extended through the rigid base. Formed on the intermediate member and disposed above the clamping flange is a first cam surface that forms a slot for the strap to extend through. The brake lever includes a second cam surface that is ~~space~~ spaced above the front flange member to form a second slot. During operation, the brake lever is rotated to press the second cam surface against the front flange member to temporarily hold the strap inside the rigid base. During use, the tension lever, the intermediate member and the brake lever are sequentially coupled together to selectively engage, pull and release the strap allowing the strap to be tightened or loosened.

DEAN A. CRAINE, P.S.
400 - 112th Ave. N.E., Ste. 140
Bellevue, WA 98004
(425) 637-3035

1. Amendment to the Specification:

Minor grammatical errors were found upon review. No new matter is being introduced by these changes.

2. Amendment to the Claims:

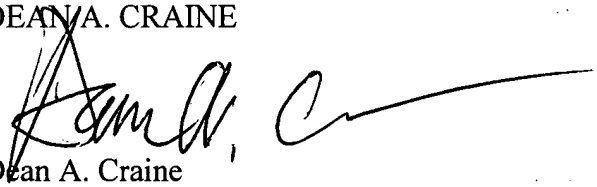
Minor grammatical errors were found upon review. No new matter is being introduced by these changes.

3. Amendment to the Abstract:

Minor grammatical errors were found upon review. No new matter is being introduced by these changes.

Respectively submitted,

DEAN A. CRAINE



Dean A. Craine

Reg. No. 33,591

DEAN A. CRAINE, P.S.
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